APPENDIX X.

EXCERPT FROM THE TESTIMONY OF HELEN L. MARKHAM

WHEN Mrs Markham testified in Dallas on July 23, 1964,[1] Commission counsel played a tape recording of my telephone conversation with her[2] and she was obliged to concede that she had been untruthful in denying she had spoken with me.[3]

'Well, will I get in any trouble over this?' she inquired.[4] Counsel replied, 'I don't think so, Mrs Markham. I wouldn't worry about it. I don't think anybody is going to cause you any trouble over that.'[5]

The Commission was obviously concerned that counsel had, in effect, granted immunity to an errant, albeit friendly—and essential—witness.[6] In exercise of its unlimited prerogative to modify the existing verbatim record,[7] the Commission added a clause to the stenographic transcript so as to give the impression that counsel was referring to another matter—a telegram which Mrs Markham had mentioned earlier in the hearing[8]—when he had in fact sought to reassure the witness.[9]

The Commission claimed that 'editing of the transcript prior to printing' was confined to 'minor changes designed to improve the clarity and accuracy of the testimony'.[10] When read in the context of Mrs Markham's testimony, however, the added clause merely seems to enlighten the reader further as to the methods employed by the Commission.

The text below, including the words within the brackets, is reprinted exactly as it appears in the Commission's published transcript.[11]

Q. And you are satisfied that to the extent we have listened to the tape, that it is accurately set forth in this memorandum?

Markham: Yes.

Q. Is that correct?

Markham: Yes; but that man is wrong. Why would anybody want to do anything like that?

Q. Would you put your initials on that memorandum, please?

Markham: Yes; may I use a pencil?

Q. Yes.

Markham: I just wrote Markham down there.

Q. All right. Thank you very much, Mrs Markham. I don't have any other questions at this time.

Markham: Well, that just worries me.

Q. Well, we will have to do further investigation into this.

Markham: Because he told me he was from the police department. It never dawned on me. You know, I was in a hurry to get back because I was going to get fired if I didn't get back.

Q. Thank you very much, Mrs Markham.

Markham: Well, will I get in any trouble over this?

Q. I don't think so, Mrs Markham. I wouldn't worry about it. I don't think anybody is going to cause you any trouble over that [referring to the telegram].

Markham: That was dirty in that man doing that.

Q. Pardon?

Markham: That was dirty in that man doing that.

Q. Well, I would think that's right.

Markham: Well, he's not no better than Oswald—that's right!

Q. Thank you, Mrs Markham, very much.[12]